

EMERGENCY APPEAL



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

BAY OF BENGAL: EARTHQUAKE & TSUNAMI

Preliminary Appeal no.
28/2004
26 December 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

THIS PRELIMINARY EMERGENCY APPEAL PROVISIONALLY SEEKS CHF 7,517,000 (USD 6,658,712 OR EUR 4,852,932) IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES TO ASSIST SOME 500,000 PEOPLE FOR 6 MONTHS

CHF 1,000,000 HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF)

(Click here to go directly to the attached preliminary appeal budget.)



All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

The situation

A massive earthquake reportedly measuring 8.9 on the Richter scale¹ struck the area off the western coast of northern Sumatra Sunday morning, 26 December 2004, at 7:59 a.m local time (00:59 GMT), triggering massive tidal waves or tsunami's (some approaching 10 meters in height) that swept into coastal villages and seaside resorts. According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) National Earthquake Information Center, the earthquake epicenter was located at 3.30 N, 95.78E at a depth of 10 kilometers (see map). This area is historically prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the margins of tectonic plates (referred to in the Pacific Ocean basin as the "Ring of Fire"). Initial reports indicate that Sri Lanka, the Indonesian province of Aceh, four states of southern India, the Maldives, coastal areas of Thailand, Malaysia, and Myanmar are the most severely affected, with the death toll reportedly exceeding 3,800 persons, with thousands evacuated, or waiting evacuation. The death toll is expected to increase as further information comes in from assessments. Telephone and communications lines are cut, severely limiting detailed information. Given the combined impact of reportedly the most powerful quake in nearly 40 years, together with the very destructive nature of the tsunami, the International Federation anticipates the need to immediately respond in a large and coordinated fashion, and is therefore launching this Preliminary Emergency Appeal accordingly to support the relief and assistance activities of the national societies in the affected countries, with a particular focus on the Sri Lanka, India, and the Maldives.

The needs

Immediate Needs, and Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

Based on preliminary reports from offices and delegation's in the region, the Federation anticipates massive relief needs for approximately two-three weeks, with considerable longer-term rehabilitation needs thereafter. CHF 1,000,000 has been released from the Federation's DREF to support the initial assistance and relief activities. In a quick and appreciated response to the scale of this disaster, ECHO has indicated that EUR 3 million will be immediately made available to support the initial operation.

The affected countries have indicated that they have the required trained technical personnel, but there is a critical need to provide support in procuring and delivering relief supplies, along with logistics/transportation assistance. The national societies in the affected area are immediately focusing on search and rescue activities, and treatment of the injured. Basic relief items are needed, along with shelter, and basic building materials to damaged or destroyed dwellings, and to replenish household items in the form of tarpaulin sheets; family kits, and mosquito nets. A crucial part of the operation is tracing and family linking, and the Federation is working with the national societies to provide the required technical support, particularly focusing on restoring family links (RFL). The following details have been received for the following countries:

- **Sri Lanka:** 1,500 deaths, and initial reports indicate that between 750,000 and one million people are affected. The Federation is sending 10 New Health Emergency Kits (NEHK) and 2 cholera kits. The Government of Sri Lanka has declared a state of emergency.
- **Indonesia, Aceh Province:** 438 deaths, with hundreds of houses swept away and thousands displaced from their homes by high tides in the towns of Medan and Banda Aceh, the capitals of two of Sumatra's provinces. Power and telephone networks in the area have been disrupted, making it difficult to assess the extent of the devastation. Indonesia's worst-hit region appears to be Aceh. Most of the 400 dead were drowned by waves. Part of Banda Aceh's largest hotel is said to have collapsed. In November, 29 people died when an earthquake struck Indonesia's eastern province of Papua.

¹ Some reports indicate a strength of 8.4 on the Richter scale.

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- **Maldives:** reports indicate that most of the low-lying islands were completely submerged, but there is very limited additional information or details available.
- **India:** 1,625 deaths.
- **Thailand:** close to 156 deaths, with over 2,000 injured or missing, mostly in the tourist island of Phuket when the wave, 5 to 10 metres (16 to 32 feet) high, crashed onto hotel-lined beaches at the peak of the tourist season. The government sent helicopters to Koh Phi Phi, another island popular with tourists, and other smaller islands in the Andaman Sea to assess the damage. A lack of medical personnel is reported. The government also ordered the immediate evacuation of areas hit by a tidal wave in three southern provinces, which included beaches on the resort island of Phuket popular with western and Asian tourists and in peak season. Recent reports from the Thai Red Cross indicate 61 dead, 1,139 injured and many people missing. The headquarters is sending 5 doctors and several nurses to Phuket. 1,000 packages consisting of food, cloths and water will be distributed to the affected people.

Pending further information and responding to requests from national authorities and Red Cross and Crescent societies, the Federation's Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) system is providing immediate support to the operation, particularly in the areas of finance, information, and media. The Federation's Field Assessment and Assessment Team (FACT) system is deployed, initially to Sri Lanka, and on standby status for other countries. The Federation's Emergency Response Units (ERUs) are also prepared to support the relief and assistance operation as needs require, particularly in the sectors of health, (hospital and basic health care), mass water units and water specialists, and transportation and logistics support. Locally, Red Cross teams in Sri Lanka and India have helped evacuate survivors, dispensed first aid, and provided emergency relief materials such as tents and blankets, and food. The Secretary General of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) was in Chennai at the time of the disaster, and is coordinating the IRCS relief and assistance response and operation. The International Federation is sending medical supplies for 10,000 people into Sri Lanka, the country hardest hit by the disaster. Additionally, medicines to treat up to 2,000 cases of cholera will also be part of the shipment. The assessment in Indonesia is being lead by the Secretary-General and the President of the national society.

The Federation, national societies, and suppliers maintain valuable quantities of relief and contingency stocks both in the region and globally. The following will be made available for this operation (ICRC stock will be dealt with by the Federation and ICRC Sumatra).

Item	Location	Quantity
Plastic sheeting	China Holland India Uganda	24,000 pieces (6m x 4 m). 12,000 pieces. 10,000 pieces. 12,000 pieces.
Tents:	Iran Red Crescent ICRC stock Dubai Karachi, Pakistan	(to be confirmed) 2,000 pieces. 950 pieces.
Blankets	India	20,000 pieces.
Kitchen sets	Egypt India	20,000 pieces. 10,000 pieces.
Family kits (9 items)	India	15,000 pieces.
Buckets	Holland	6,400 pieces.
ICRC Kenya	Plastic sheeting Blankets Kitchen sets	20,000 pieces. 80,000 pieces. 15,000 pieces.
NEHK	Denmark	20 kits.
Cholera Kits	Denmark	20 kits.

Coordination

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The overall coordination is assured by the Federation's regional delegation in New Delhi, with the Federation's regional or country delegations and representatives in Sri Lanka and Bangkok facilitating efforts to contact, work with, and support the national societies in the affected countries. In Indonesia, the Indonesian Red Cross Society president with the disaster management team will fly from Jakarta to Banda Aceh at 2:00pm (local time) today. The ICRC has also provided food and non-food items in their warehouses to the national society for immediate relief assistance. The response of other national societies is being collected and will be communicated in subsequent information bulletins or operations updates. The UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is sending an UNDAC team, with which the Federation's will coordinate.

The proposed operation

Based on the available information and the capacity of the national societies, Federation support will focus on providing assistance to facilitate delivery of relief supplies through the provision of emergency shelter and other non-food items such as mosquito nets and family kits comprising essential household materials, New Emergency Health Kits, hygiene articles, cooking facilities, mattresses, basic clothing for men, women and children (two sets for each individual) and water containers; and then to provide, as essential repair items for the rehabilitation phase, string, nails and basic building tools to complement local initiatives.

Objectives and activities planned

Objective 1: based on the assessment and evaluation of needs in the affected area, distribute emergency shelter materials and other non-food commodities.

Activities planned:

- organize purchase and transport tarpaulins, mosquito nets, and family kits to the affected areas.
- carry out door-to-door surveys to select and register people.
- distribute the relief items among the most vulnerable affected households focussing on targeted, affected areas.

Objective 2: complement local reconstruction initiatives through the distribution of essential building materials and basic tools.

Activities planned:

- organize, purchase and make available basic building and repair tools.
- carry out door-to-door surveys to select and register people.
- undertake distribution among the households in the targeted areas.

Duration of the operation

The release of CHF 1,000,000 from the Federation's DREF will enable the search and rescue, relief, and assistance activities to begin immediately. With the number of countries and societies involved, practical constraints (especially logistical due to remote distances), will require a flexible approach to the operation, with the appeal being adjusted accordingly in further updates to be issued on the Federation's website accordingly.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Susan Johnson
Director
National Society and Field Support Division

Markku Niskala
Secretary General

[Budget below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

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TYPE	VALUE	
RELIEF NEEDS		IN CHF
Shelter & construction	1,500,000	
Clothing & textiles	500,000	
Food	1,138,000	
Utensils & tools	700,000	
Other relief supplies (New Health Emergency Kits)	1,000,000	
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS		4,838,000
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<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>		
Computers & telecom. equipment	70,000	
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
Programme support (6.5% of total)	489,000	
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>		
Warehousing & distribution	400,000	
Transport & vehicle costs	300,000	
<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
Expatriate staff	700,000	
National staff	300,000	
Consultants	60,000	
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>		
Travel & related expenses	100,000	
Information expenses	60,000	
Administrative & general expenses	200,000	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS		2,679,000
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TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES		7,517,000
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